<center>REMARKS</center>

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 14, 2008. Claims 29 and 33 to 37 are in the application, with Claims 29 and 33 being independent. Claims 29 and 33 to 37 have been amended. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 29 and 33 to 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,978,557 (Kato) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,912,057 (Idehara), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,822,506 (Chen). Reconsideration and withdrawal are respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 29 as amended generally concerns a print control apparatus connected to a color printer and a monochromatic printer. The print control apparatus includes a first discrimination unit that discriminates, for each of a plurality of pages in a single print job, whether the page is a color page or a monochromatic page, the single print job being issued based on a single print request, and a determination unit that determines whether the page is to be output to the color printer or to the monochromatic printer, based on a discrimination made by the first discrimination unit. The print control apparatus further includes an output unit that outputs print data of the page to the printer based on a determination made by the determination unit, and an obtaining unit that obtains information about what kind of paper ejection function is provided in the color printer and in the monochromatic printer. In addition, the print control apparatus includes a second discrimination unit that discriminates whether or not a succeeding page is serial to a page previously outputted by the printer, and an adding unit that adds, to the print data to be output by the output unit, an ejection command, based on a discrimination made by the

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second discrimination unit and the ejection function information obtained by the obtaining unit, such that an ejection position is changed in an ejection manner according to the ejection function provided in the printer selected by the determination unit, when the succeeding page is not serial to the page previously outputted by that printer.

Thus, among its many features, Claim 29 provides for (i) discriminating, for each of a plurality of pages in a single print job, whether the page is a color page or a monochromatic page, the single print job being issued based on a single print request, (ii) discriminating whether or not a succeeding page is serial to a page previously outputted by a printer, and (iii) adding, to the print data to be output, an ejection command, based on the discrimination for the succeeding page and on obtained ejection function information for a color printer and a monochromatic printer, such that an ejection position is changed in an ejection manner according to the ejection function provided in a selected printer, when the succeeding page is not serial to the page previously outputted by that printer.

By virtue of foregoing features (i) to (iii), print data of color pages can be output to a color printer with one or more ejection commands depending on a number of page discontinuities occurring in the color pages, and print data of monochromatic pages can be output to a monochromatic printer with one or more ejection commands depending on a number of page discontinuities in the monochromatic pages. It is therefore possible to change the paper ejection destination, in the same printer, whenever a page discontinuity occurs.

Turning to the applied references, Kato, Idehara and Chen are not seen to disclose or suggest at least foregoing features (i) to (iii).

As understood by Applicants, Kato discloses a system which determines in units of pages whether data to be printed contains color information. If color information is present, a color flag is set to ON. When the color flag is ON, print data prepared and developed in a page buffer is sent to a color printer. When the color flag is OFF, the print data prepared and developed in the page buffer is sent to a monochromatic printer. See Kato, Abstract.

However, Kato is not seen to disclose or suggest the use of ejection function information for a color printer and a monochromatic printer. Accordingly, Kato is not seen to disclose or suggest (i) discriminating, for each of a plurality of pages in a single print job, whether the page is a color page or a monochromatic page, the single print job being issued based on a single print request, (ii) discriminating whether or not a succeeding page is serial to a page previously outputted by a printer, and (iii) adding, to the print data to be output, an ejection command, based on the discrimination for the succeeding page and on obtained ejection function information for a color printer and a monochromatic printer, such that an ejection position is changed in an ejection manner according to the ejection function provided in a selected printer, when the succeeding page is not serial to the page previously outputted by that printer.

Idehara is not seen to compensate for the deficiencies of Kato. Idehara is seen to disclose a system where, each time when a page number is discontinuous at step a S107, a sorter is activated and a bin for storing printouts will be changed to another bin located immediately above the bin that is designated at the moment. See Kato, column 4, lines 48 to 52; and Figure 2A.

In other words, Idehara is seen to disclose determining whether pages are continuous or not, and switching bins based on the determination. However, Idehara is not seen to disclose or suggest the use of ejection function information for a color printer and a monochromatic printer. Thus, Idehara is not seen to disclose or suggest foregoing features (i) to (iii).

Chen is not seen to compensate for the deficiencies of Kato and Idehara. Chen is seen to disclose that a print job is controlled by defining print data, printer control data and post processor control data in a print data stream from a host computer. A post processor reads the post processor control data, and executes the post processor control data to perform selected modification of the print medium. See Chen, column 2, lines 4 to 18. In addition, Chen is seen to disclose that Medium Modification Control (MMC) structured fields have been used to perform certain medium control operations in a printer. These operations have included input paper bin selection, overlay printing on each sheet or page, simplex or duplex printing, offset stacking for job separation, text suppression in printing, print quality selection, and constant forms printing. See Chen, column 3, lines 52 to 56.

As such, even if Chen could be seen to disclose issuing an ejection command (a point which Applicant does not concede), Chen is seen to issue such a command on a job by job basis. Chen is not seen to disclose or suggest that a plurality of ejection commands are given for a single job.

Accordingly, Chen is not seen to disclose or suggest (i) discriminating, for each of a plurality of pages in a single print job, whether the page is a color page or a monochromatic page, the single print job being issued based on a single print request, (ii)

discriminating whether or not a succeeding page is serial to a page previously outputted by a printer, and (iii) adding, to the print data to be output, an ejection command, based on the discrimination for the succeeding page and on obtained ejection function information for a color printer and a monochromatic printer, such that an ejection position is changed in an ejection manner according to the ejection function provided in a selected printer, when the succeeding page is not serial to the page previously outputted by that printer.

In addition, Kato, Idehara and Chen are not seen to disclose the attendant benefits provided by foregoing features (i) to (iii).

Claim 29 is therefore believed to be allowable over the applied references.

In addition, independent Claim 33 is a method claim which generally corresponds to apparatus Claim 29. Accordingly, Claim 33 is believed to be allowable for the same reasons.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied reference for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

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Respectfully submitted,

/John D. Magluyan/
John D. Magluyan
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No.: 56,867

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FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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